



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



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Governor

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### **Environmental News**

## **DEQ Invites Public to Comment on Water Report**

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is holding a public hearing on March 22 at 1:30 p.m. to receive written and oral comments on its report concerning the condition of the state's surface water. The public hearing will be in the Oliver Pollock Conference Room, C111, in the Galvez Building located at 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge.

The report, known as the 2004 Integrated Report, is an assessment of all waters in the state. It identifies, lists and ranks impaired water bodies that require stricter wastewater discharge permits and the use of best management practices for stormwater runoff.

Where appropriate, impaired water bodies are required to have a total maximum daily load developed to protect water quality. A TMDL is the total amount of pollutant a water body can receive and still meet state water quality standards for its designated beneficial uses.

Through the Integrated Report, DEQ is focusing on problems related to Louisiana waters and their distinctive water quality characteristics. DEQ continually refines its water-quality monitoring and assessment procedures used to develop the Integrated Report. By doing this, the department is able to focus on areas where water quality problems may exist.

The Office of Environmental Assessment will receive questions and comments expressed during the public hearing. After close of comments, written responses will be prepared and made available at such time as the 2004 Integrated Report is finalized.

Written comments should be addressed to Mr. Albert E. Hindrichs, Water Quality Integrated Report Coordinator, Office of Environmental Assessment, P.O. Box 4314, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-4314. The report can be viewed on the DEQ website at: [www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl/index.htm](http://www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl/index.htm). Those unable to access the website are encouraged to check with their local library for access. For additional information regarding the 2004 Integrated Report please contact Mr. Hindrichs at (225) 219-3590.